Trafficking of women and children

†1900. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of Women and Child Development have requested the Ministry of External Affairs to take necessary action for implementation of the provisions of the 'SAARC' convention against illegal trafficking of women and children;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in this direction; and

(c) the action being taken by Government to stop illegal trafficking of women and children to other countries in addition to SAARC countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children has been ratified by all member States and entered into force on 15 November 2005. A Regional Task Force has been constituted by SAARC member States to implement the Convention. The first meeting of this Task Force was held in New Delhi on 26 July, 2007. The Indian delegation included representatives from Ministries of External Affairs, Women and Child Development and Home Affairs. The meeting decided to: (i) exchange of best practices by the respective Governments, NGOs and members of the civil society to combat trafficking, (ii) develop a Standard operating procedure to implement various provisions of the Convention, (iii) Offer of Government of India to conduct relevant training programmes in capacity building for stakeholders of SAARC Member States.

(c) Government have adopted a multi-pronged approach to combat trafficking, both within the country and also cross-border, which encompasses efforts ranging from prevention through stronger law enforcement to rescue and rehabilitation of victims. Whenever cases of trafficking involving foreign countries come to notice, the matter is also promptly taken up for resolution bilaterally through diplomatic channels.

Functioning of passport offices

1901. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that C.A.G. in its report No. 12 of 2007 has expressed strong resentment on the functioning of the passport offices;

(b) if so, what are their main observations; and

(c) the proposal of Government to set right the present state of affairs?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.